



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61F5/56 A61F A61M16/00 A61B7/00 A61B5/087 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61F A61B A61M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 6 363 933 B1 (BERTHON-JONES MICHAEL) 24-28 2 April 2002 (2002-04-02) column 7, line 15 -column 17, line 6; figure 2 χ US 6 105 575 A (MECHLENBURG DOUGLAS M ET 24-28 AL) 22 August 2000 (2000-08-22) column 16, line 62 -column 17, line 47; figure 10 X US 5 803 066 A (NORMAN ROBERT G ET AL) 24-28 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) column 11, line 58 -column 13, line 54; figures 18,23 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed '&' document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 12 February 2004 18/02/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer Reduces of the Ear European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentham 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Ruff, C



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